

schooling movement means that more and more children are learning together, just not in a traditional classroom. For example, a group of 70 home schooling families living in a Washington suburb organize regular group field trips and extracurricular activities for their home schooled children. They also come together for music lessons, soccer and basketball games and for art classes.

These are all ideas and events planned by parents, not school boards. Students are transported by mom or dad driving mini vans, not school buses. Home cooking beats school cafeteria food any day of the week. Education begins at home and I applaud the parents who recognize that they—not someone else—must take responsibility to assure that their children are well educated. I remind everyone: Whether you school them at home or send them to school, you as a parent have the responsibility to make sure they learn and behave. Teachers and principals may help, but parents are the ones who must accept responsibility.

I congratulate all the parents out there who made a commitment to put their children's education first. These are parents that our Founding Fathers would find worthy of praise.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AMY ARNAZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss Amy Arnaz for her outstanding service to the community of Boulder City as the owner and operator of Dance Etc. Dance Studio. She also serves as the Executive Director of the Boulder City Ballet Company. Miss Amy, as she is known to the community, will retire from her service of Boulder City on May 27, 2006.

Miss Amy began her ballet career at age 7 under the direction of English Ballerina Christina Carson. She attended college at San Diego State University, where she danced with the San Diego Ballet Company. After traveling to New York to study with the Joffrey School Ballet, she returned to Las Vegas and joined the Sulich's Nevada Dance Theater. In 1979, Miss Amy purchased Dance Etc., and she continues to teach ballet, tap, jazz, and exercise to this day.

In 1997, in cooperation with her husband Desi Arnaz Jr., she founded the non-profit Boulder City Ballet Company. While serving as the company's Executive Director, Miss Amy has brought joy to the lives of the children who live in the small town of Boulder City.

Miss Amy has been trained to teach the Royal Academy of Dancing System used by the Royal Academy of England. Her students are also exposed to various types of dance through guest instructors and special workshops. She is certified through the American Council on Exercise, and continues to train in order to remain at the top in her field. Miss Amy and her valuable efforts to bring dance to the community will be very missed by the city of Boulder City; however, she will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Miss Amy Arnaz on the floor of the House. I commend her for her contributions to Boulder City and thank her for her continued service to

the children of southern Nevada. I now yield the remainder of my time.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL MISSOURI EAGLES YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Central Missouri Eagles Youth Hockey Association for winning one of the Positive Coaching Alliance's 2006 "Honoring the Game" Awards. For those of you not familiar with the Positive Coaching Alliance, they are a partnership of coaches, athletes—both current and retired—and community leaders who are dedicated to improving the quality of youth sports programs by offering training workshops and providing resources to coaches and parents that stress sports fundamentals, positive coaching and good sportsmanship.

The Positive Coaching Alliance presents an Honoring the Game Award to youth sports organizations and schools that demonstrate excellence in coaching, strong organizational culture and the promotion of good values. Award winners receive an all expenses paid trip to San Francisco where they are recognized for their accomplishments. The Central Missouri Eagles Youth Hockey Association was one of three national winners and the only Midwest team to be honored.

The Eagles are composed of 4 coed teams with 60 players, ranging in age from 5 to 18. The Eagles have a motto—"Building Good Athletes and Great Citizens"—and they have certainly lived up to it. Since 2001, all players have participated in a community service project as part of their commitment to the team. This season, the Eagles made numerous outstanding contributions in Mid-Missouri.

The Eagles pee-wee team, which includes 11 and 12 year-olds, gathered 500 stuffed animals and 130 backpacks for abused and neglected children. The high school varsity squad also collected more than 400 stuffed animals for sick children at the University of Missouri's Children's Hospital in Columbia. Finally, the mite and squirt teams, which are 5 and 10 year-olds respectively, collected more than 300 cans of food for those in need.

The involvement of our youth in activities that build character through community service and athletic competition is a positive experience, and it is refreshing to hear of organizations such as the Eagles that not only promote sportsmanship, good coaching, and having fun but also encourage player development outside the rink. This is exemplified in an excerpt from the Eagles mission statement, which reads as follows:

"The community is best served when the Eagles graduate young citizens enriched by meaningful participation in a disciplined team sport, long after the outcomes of distant games have faded from memory."

The Eagles are an outstanding organization and should be commended for all their efforts. The coaches and parents who have made this program a success are also deserving of our praise and recognition. I wish the Eagles continued success both on and off the ice and

again offer my sincere congratulations for their winning an Honoring the Game Award from the Positive Coaching Alliance.

RECOGNIZING JOAN STELLA HOLMAN ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend Joan Stella Holman of Lakeport, California as she celebrates her 90th birthday and a lifetime of inspiring achievements.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 70 years Joan has been lighting up stages around the world. At an early age, Joan realized she wanted to become an actress. At only 17 years old, this driven and intelligent young woman traveled the world in pursuit of her dreams. She performed in England, South Africa and began her United States acting career in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Joan was born in England and became a naturalized citizen in 1952. After settling in San Francisco she began working as a journalist for the San Francisco Chronicle and the Oakland Tribune. While working in San Francisco she continued to perform in community theaters around the Bay Area. At age 66, Joan retired from her journalism career and settled in Lakeport, California, however, she could not retire from the stage.

Mr. Speaker, Joan has become an integral and dearly beloved member of our community. She is recognized throughout Lake County for her leadership, heartwarming personality and devotion to the arts. She has bettered our community through her love of acting. She has been cast in numerous community theater plays performing with the Lake County Repertory Theater, Ukiah Playhouse and Lakeport Community Players. In 1994 Joan received the Actress of the Year Award for her portrayal of Miss Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Joan is currently co-starring in "The Gin Game" which opens on the eve of her 90th birthday. While she may be in her 90th year she continues to portray characters with as much heart and spirit as someone who is starring in their very first role.

When not on stage, Joan continues to support the arts and our community through her dedication to several art organizations, including the Clearlake Performing Arts Council and the Lake County Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate that we take this time to thank and honor my dear friend Joan Stella Holman for all she has done for our community and for the arts. She is an inspiration to us all and on behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to extend our best wishes to her as she celebrates her 90th birthday on April 24, 2006.

COMMEMORATING COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Cover the Uninsured Week.

Since its inception in 2003, the week held from May 1–May 7, recognizes the plight of one of the greatest threats to our Nation—46 million Americans who lack health insurance coverage.

This important initiative is led by former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. During the week, community-based events are organized throughout the Nation to heighten public awareness about the importance of making health care coverage a civil right and a priority on our public policy agenda. Over the past three years, the week of events has included health fairs, seminars for small businesses, as well as faith-based, college and university activities.

Mr. Speaker, 46 million Americans—which equates to 15 percent of the population—are living without any form of health insurance coverage. As a Nation that embodies democracy and spreads its principles of equality throughout the world, we should be shocked by this astounding figure. The statistics regarding the uninsured are equally shocking:

Proportionately, Hispanics and African-Americans have been hit the hardest by our failure to provide health care for all. At least 60 percent of Hispanic Americans, more than 43 percent of African Americans, and 23 percent of Caucasians are among the uninsured.

More than one in four uninsured adults (or 26.6 percent) have less than a high school education.

Only 9 percent of people in families with income over \$50,000 per year are uninsured, compared to 40.8 percent of people with family income below \$5,000.

A national survey conducted in 2003 found that almost six in 10 uninsured adults (59 percent) have been without health insurance for two years or more.

In the state of Maryland, approximately 810,000 people, 14.6 percent of the total population, lack health insurance coverage.

Mr. Speaker, these statistics illustrate something very concrete and clear: the human consequences of having tens of millions of Americans uninsured are appalling. Necessary medical treatment is being delayed too long or altogether, and the Americans are dying unnecessarily.

Apart from this fact, the employment-based health insurance system, which provides health insurance for almost two-thirds of the non-elderly population, is also broken.

The reasons are complex, but this much is clear.

Too many Americans are working at low-paid or part-time jobs that do not provide health insurance coverage.

Insurance costs are increasing—and those employers who do offer coverage are attempting to shift more and more of those costs onto their employees.

We also know that those areas of our economy in which any job growth is occurring are about 10 percent less likely to provide health care coverage than those in which the number of available jobs is shrinking.

Mr. Speaker, based on all of these facts, the time to change our Nation's healthcare equation is upon us. There has to be a better way to ensure universal, high quality care. I am convinced that there is no human right more fundamental than the preservation of life. Wealth should not be a pre-condition to world class health care in a nation that truly values all of its people.

With that said, I have joined Michigan Congressman JOHN CONYERS and many others in proposing the United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676).

This proposal would create a nation-wide, single-payer health care system that is publicly financed but provides private care. It would include expanding and improving the existing Medicare program to cover Americans of all ages. Under the plan, Americans would retain (or regain) the right to choose their own doctors. Other health care professionals and all medically necessary services would be covered. There would also be neither co-pays nor deductibles.

Today, I encourage my colleagues to work with us in advancing the vision of universal health care for the following three reasons:

We must not allow the sick and dying Americans in our communities to be marginalized.

We must make common cause with all of the Americans to provide the care that they need at a cost that they can afford.

We must be clear in our assertion that health care is a fundamental human right whatever may be the color of a person's skin.

Now is the time to create a health care system that truly serves ALL Americans and now is the time for America to transform our human right to health care into a civil right guaranteed—and funded—by federal law. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 676.

NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE OF FLORIDA LAND SALE

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced common sense legislation that provides the Forestry Service the flexibility they need to properly manage their assets. This legislation modifies the Florida National Forest Land Management Act in two simple ways, which will provide the Forest Service essential authority to manage the National Forests in Florida effectively.

The first provision simply adds an unmanageable tract of land located in Tallahassee, FL to the list of lands the Secretary of Agriculture is currently authorized to sell. This specific property, tract W-1979, is approximately 114 acres of land that has evolved into an unmanageable problem area for the Apalachicola National Forest. Due to the configuration and surrounding development, the vegetation cannot be managed through prescribed fire. Although a very valuable tract from a real estate/commercial aspect, this tract has lost its National Forest character. The sale of this land will allow the Forest Service to purchase other lands located within the Forest that are more manageable and will enhance National Forests in Florida.

Secondly, this legislation would allow the Forest Service to use proceeds from the sale of other "non-green land" to be used for construction and improvements to Administrative facilities essential to the proper management of the Forest. These "non-green land" tracts of land are owned by the Forest Service, but have urban improvements like fairgrounds or sporting complexes and are not conducive to the overall purpose of protecting our National Forests.

This legislation would allow the Service to use the proceeds from the sale of improved lands to build critical infrastructure they need to manage the Forests in Florida, while allowing the Forest Service to continue its practice of using receipts from all nondeveloped "green land" tracts for the acquisition of other "green land" tracts to enhance the National Forests in Florida. By passing this legislation, the Forest Service will have the ability to efficiently and effectively manage our Nation's precious resources.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JEFFERY D. GUSTAFSON

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate CMSgt Jeffery D. Gustafson of Rochester, Minnesota, on his dedicated service in the United States Air Force.

In November of 1975, Chief Master Sergeant Gustafson enlisted in the United States Air Force at the 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Force Reserve Station in Minnesota. He retired from the same station on April 1, 2006, having achieved the highest attainable enlisted rank in the United States Military.

Chief Master Sergeant Gustafson has served the United States from across the world, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Honduras. He was given the distinct honor of being the first troop commander of a fully manned Aerospace Expeditionary Force for the United States Air Force. He was also the first recipient of the General Rawlings Air Force Sergeant Association and Air Force Association Chapter's Chief Master Sergeant of the Year. In addition, Chief Master Sergeant Gustafson has been thanked in person for his military service by President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere gratitude to CMSgt Jeffery D. Gustafson for his service in the United States Air Force and his commitment to our nation. His distinguished accomplishments reflect to the highest degree upon himself and the United States Air Force.

AMTRAK 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amtrak on its 35th Anniversary, and commemorate its 35 years of public service to this Nation through its commitment to passenger rail.

I travel all over the country and the people I talk to love Amtrak. It is a great way to commute to work, it takes cars off our already congested highways, and in many areas of the country is the only mode of transportation available. In fact, ridership has increased in 8 of the last 9 years reaching a record level of over 25 million passengers last year. It is also important to note that Amtrak's long distance